

## Message Text

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53

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-02 H-02 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15 AEC-07

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FRB-01 /104 W

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R 141344Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1325

INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

UNCLAS BEIRUT 13653

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EIND, SY, LE

SUBJECT: EXXON UPHELD IN LEBANON ON SYRIAN CUSTOMS CLAIM

1. BRYON JONES, EXXON MANAGER LEBANON, ADVISES THAT LEBANON HIGH COURT NOVEMBER 13 RULED THAT A 1967 SYRIAN COURT JUDGEMENT AGAINST FORMER ESSO DIVISION SYRIA FOR ALLEGED BACK CUSTOMS DUTIES CANNOT BE ENFORCED AGAINST ESSO STANDARD (NEAR EAST) INC., LEBANON, UNDER 1951 SYRIAN-LEBANESE JUDICIAL AGREEMENT. RULING MADE ON MERITS, NOT TECHNICALITIES, SAYS JONES, ADDING THAT DECISION ELIMINATES POSSIBILITY OF SYRIAN ATTACHMENT OF EXXON ASSETS LEBANON.

2. CASE INVOLVED 1960 SYRIAN CLAIM FOR \$29 MILLION IN CUSTOMS DUTIES SYRIAN CUSTOMS AUTHORITIES CLAIMED ESSO STANDARD (NEAR EAST) INC., SYRIA DIVISION, OWED ON 1951-59 LUBRICANTS IMPORTS FROM ESSO AFFILIATE, PENOLA OIL COMPANY. SYRIA NATIONALIZED ESSO SYRIA DIVISION MARCH 4, 1965. NATIONALIZATION CASE AND THIS CUSTOMS CASE STILL UNRESOLVED IN SYRIA.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CUSTOMS DUTIES, NATIONALIZATION, PETROLEUM, COURTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 14 NOV 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Errors:** N/A  
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**Review Authority:** martinml  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
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**Review Date:** 08 APR 2002  
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30 JUN 2005

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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
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**TAGS:** EIND, SY, LE, EXXON  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005